

## SOUTHERN VIEWS.

## NO. II.—GEORGIA FEMALE COLLEGE.

WE present in this number a most charming picture from the burin of Smillie, representing one of the most popular Southern institutions. We feel assured that the plan adopted in "Graham," of giving noted scenes of the West and South, in the present volume, must enhance the value of the work to its numerous readers, all over the Union.

Georgia Female College is located in the centre of the State of Georgia. It was founded in 1838, and has been in successful operation since that time. The object of its founders was to furnish to females an opportunity for as thorough and as extensive an education as was afforded to the other sex by our colleges. This the institution now offers. Every department included in a college course, together with the various departments of an ornamental education, is filled by competent teachers. The plan and course of instruction is the same as those of our best colleges, with the exception of the ancient languages, a knowledge of which is not necessary to graduation. The College is well supplied with apparatus for the illustration of every department of science.

At the time the College went into operation, it was certainly in advance of public opinion on the subject of female education; but the opinion is gaining ground, both in our own country and in Europe, that as thorough a disciplinary education should be afforded to the one sex as to the other. This is plainly indicated by the establishment of Queen's College for Females, in Glasgow; by a large institution recently established in Liverpool, and another, supplementary to female boarding schools, at Hackney, one of the firmest advocates of the latter being the accomplished Mrs. Mary Howitt. In all of these, sound learning in its various departments, including even the higher branches of pure mathematics, is the fundamental object. But these are not the only indications that a most radical change is now working in the public mind on this vitally important subject. Numerous volumes within the last few months have appeared in England aiming directly or indirectly to this important point, and some of the most distinguished literary journals are lending their aid to help on the much desired change. The editor of the London

Athenaeum in a recent number of his journal asks, "How is it that for ages the training of woman has been deemed of less importance than that of man?" No answer can, in reason, be given to the question, but that it has resulted from prejudice and from ignorance of the true objects of education.

The following extract from a little work recently published in Edinburgh, "A Plea for Women," by Mrs. Hugo Reid, places the object of education in its true light, and the basis of equality of mental discipline of the two sexes.

"The incalculable greatness of the evil influence which ignorance in its women must bring to bear on any community, and the evident tendency of a race of truly enlightened women to produce, in their turn, a more enlightened race of men, are certainly very good public reasons for the discontinuance of this system toward women. But far from being the only reasons, as is often assumed, neither of these is the best or truest argument for doing away with a system so partial and injurious. The intrinsic value of a human soul, and its infinite capability of improvement, are the true reasons for the culture of any human being, woman no less than man. The grand plea for woman sharing with man all the advantages of education is, that every rational being is worthy of cultivation, for his or her own individual sake. The first object in the education of every mind ought to be its own development. Doubtless the improvement of the influence exerted upon others will be a necessary consequence, but it ought never to be spoken of as the first inducement to it. It is too much the custom, even of the most liberal in these matters, to urge the education and enlightenment of woman rather as a means improving *man*, than as, in itself, an end of intrinsic excellence, which certainly seems to us the first and greatest consideration."

We rejoice at these signs of the times, and we shall still more heartily rejoice when the notion that mental development by severe study is unnecessary for woman is exploded, and when justice shall be done her by our legislators in founding institutions for her mental culture as well as for our sons.

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